

1991

Maine State Library Commission Minutes 1991

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MINUTES OF THE MAINE LIBRARY COMMISSION

March 15, 1991

The Maine Library Commission met at the Maine State Library on Friday, March 15, 1991.

Commission members present were:

Judith Curtis
Michael Cyr, Chair
Rosemary Dyer
Sumner Goffin
Andrew Golub
Joseph Inman
Robin Rand
Barbara Rice

Also present were Richard Arnold, Jack Boynton, Benjamin Keating, Barbara Nash and Gary Nichols.

1. On motion duly made and seconded it was
VOTED: To accept the minutes of the November 16, 1990.
2. INTRODUCTION – Barbara Rice – Director, Bangor Public Library and new commission member was introduced to the Commission.
3. STATEWIDE LIBRARY SURVEY – Barbara Nash, Market Decisions –
Market Decisions conducted the survey in two stages. Stage 1 – fact finding through a focus group of librarians and library decision makers such as town officials, school superintendents, and library trustees. Stage 2 – conducting a survey based on questions generated by the focus group. The Survey results were reviewed. Sheldon Kaye pointed out the need for further research based on the survey results.
4. DON WISMER – Maine author and recently appointed commission member presented his newly published book, *A ROIL OF STARS*, to Gary Nichols. The book is dedicated to Gary.
5. BLAINE HOUSE CONFERENCE – Richard Arnold. Delegates to the National White House Conference have been elected. They are:
Nann Hilyard – Library and Information Professional
Don Wismer – Library Supporter
Neil Rolde – General Public
Ted Andrei – Government Official
A committee is currently sorting through all the issues presented at the Blaine House Conference and translating them into priorities and finally into recommendations.
6. LSCA – Richard Arnold. The current fiscal year funding levels remained the same with small increases in Titles I and III and a small decrease in Title II. The Title II (Library Construction) grant applications total \$800,000 in requests. Maine's Title II appropriations is \$150,000. The Bush administration's proposal is to cut LSCA by 75%. Remaining LSCA funds could be used only for Title I and block grant programs involving literacy.

7. STATE LIBRARY BUDGET – Gary Nichols. The FY91 budget reduction totals \$352,750. The staff and program cuts are severe:

- * four positions frozen
- * loss of \$102,482 from reserves
- * loss of \$130,268 from all other portion of budget from 3rd & 4th quarter
- * 50% reduction in the purchase of video programs K-12 in the Media Section
- * eliminate the purchase of all new videos for public library programming
- * suspend production of new cumulative Books-by-Mail catalog
- * postpone 1990 MaineCat database
- * changes in ILL policy
- * eliminate purchase of new Reader/Printers

The budget reductions for FY92 (\$453,805) and FY93 (\$399,630) will cause further impact on State Library programs.

- * eliminate new Film acquisitions
- * eliminate new Large Print Book acquisitions
- * 50% reduction in ITV programs
- * 50% reduction in Preservation Grants
- * 50% reduction in standing orders
- * reduce updates and participants in MaineCat
- * reduction in hours opened to public
- * abolish 4 positions, lay off 3 positions

There may be additional cuts in FY92 and 93 if the State Library has to absorb a 7% pay increase.

Our new status as an independent agency allows us the opportunity to present our needs directly to the Appropriations Committee.

8. SCHOOL SURVEY – Margie Soule. The survey is in the draft stage. The final report should be out early in May. It will include an Executive Summary. The libraries are divided into 4 different categories. 1 – size, 2 – geographic location, 3 – certified or non-certified librarian and 4 – type of library (elementary, jr. high, high school).
9. OTHER BUSINESS – Elaine Albright has recently been appointed to the Library Commission to represent the academic community. The Governor's office has promised to promptly fill the rest of the vacancies.
10. There being no further business to come before the commission it was
VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned at 3:35 PM

Benjamin F. Keating

MINUTES OF THE MAINE LIBRARY COMMISSION

November 6, 1991

The Maine Library Commission met at the Maine State Library on Wednesday, November 6, 1991.

Commission members present were:

Elaine Albright
Debbie Chandler
Judith Curtis
Rosemary Dyer
Andrew Golub
Nann Hilyard, Chair
Sheldon Kaye
Sally MacAuslan
Jeanne Pernice
Robin Rand
Barbara Rice
Don Wismer
Robert Woodward

Also present were Richard Arnold, Jack Boynton, Ben Keating, Gary Nichols, and Del Pushard.

1. MINUTES — On motion duly made and seconded it was
VOTED: To accept the minutes of the September 25, 1991 meeting.
2. RECENT BUDGET REDUCTIONS — Gary Nichols — The Governor's office directed all state agencies to reduce their budgets by 10% (\$212,000 for the State Library). After reviewing the previous budget cuts and their impact on the internal operation of the State Library, it was clear that any additional cuts would have to come from statewide programs. Eliminating per capita funding was recommended because other direct statewide services were considered more important. This strategy was supported by many librarians throughout the state at the three district council meetings. It was decided to take additional cuts in the State Library budget to preserve the per capita funding for the Portland and Bangor Public Libraries. Their per capita funding supports their ARRC responsibilities.

Harriet Dawson (assistant to the Governor) met with the four cultural agency directors to inform them that in addition to the 10% reduction, the governor included in his budget a restructuring plan for the cultural agencies. The Governor's plan was reviewed. Among other things, the plan would eliminate the citizen commissions and federal funds to each agency.

Through Terry Geaghan (Acting Museum Director) an effort was made to negotiate with the Governor. The Governor would withdraw the restructuring plan if additional cuts (for a total of \$600,000) were made by the cultural agencies. It was not possible for the Directors to promise specific cuts without the consent of their Commissions. Therefore, no agreement could be reached. The State Library's budget hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, at the Augusta Civic Center.

3. FUTURE BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS — Maine Library Commission — Proposed budget cuts for the Maine State Library's share of \$600,000 were discussed by the Library Commission in executive session.

4. LEGISLATIVE SURVEY REVIEW — Ben Keating — The results of the Commission's legislative survey were reviewed. The recommendations were organized under 6 broad headings (Public Libraries, School Libraries, MaineCard, Maine State Library, Automation/cooperation, Funding, and Miscellaneous). It was the consensus of the Commission to table any discussion of the survey results until a later date.
5. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE - Nann Hilyard - On December 10, 1991, a teleconference on White House Conference resolutions and issues will be broadcast to multiple sites in Maine. All Blaine House Conference delegates and other interested citizens will be encouraged to participate.
6. MLA LIBRARY AWARENESS - Nann Hilyard — MLA's \$10,000 investment in a library awareness program is officially underway. A firm has been hired to promote libraries and their services.
7. There being no further business to come before the commission it was VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned 3:35 pm.

Benjamin F. Keating

MINUTES OF THE MAINE LIBRARY COMMISSION

September 25, 1991

The Maine Library Commission met at the Maine State Library on Friday, September 25, 1991.

Commission members present were:

Elaine Albright
Debbie Chandler
Judith Curtis
Rosemary Dyer
Sumner Goffin
Andrew Golub
Richard Gould
Nann Hilyard
Nancy Joyce
Sally MacAuslan
Jeanne Pernice
Barbara Rice
Carolyn Watkins
Don Wismer
Robert Woodward

Also present were Richard Arnold, Karl Beiser, Jack Boynton, Benita Davis, Ben Keating, Gary Nichols, and Del Pushard.

1. NEW COMMISSION MEMBER – Bob Woodward was recently appointed to the Commission. He will replace Joe Inman and represent the Northeastern District.
2. MINUTES – On motion duly made and seconded it was VOTED: To accept the minutes of the June 21, 1991 meeting.
3. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE – Don Wismer, Nann Hilyard – The process at the conference was very confusing. Its primary benefit was that it was held at the same time as the President's education reform, AMERICA 2000, was announced. As a result, the President, Mrs Bush, Lamar Alexander and other dignitaries were present and hopefully realized the valuable link between libraries and education. White House Conference recommendations were reviewed.
4. BLAINE HOUSE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS – Gary Nichols, Ben Keating – A review of the recommendations focused on marketing. The organization, Chief Officers of State Libraries in the Northeast (COSLINE), is willing to finance and plan a conference on marketing libraries from the local level to statewide marketing activity. The Maine Library Association is currently working on a year long marketing campaign for 1992. The Commission then reviewed a public service announcement for libraries made by Stephen King. The p.s.a. was filmed in the Bangor Public Library.
5. LEGISLATIVE SURVEY - Gary Nichols - In an effort to update VISION 2000, the Commission was asked to complete a survey requesting five ideas for future library development. The results will be discussed at a future meeting.

6. BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS - Jack Boynton – School library budgets have been reduced throughout the state. The cuts are taken most frequently in the area of staff and material budgets. Public libraries have been less affected by budget cuts. When cuts are taken, they are generally reflected in reduced hours.
7. DISTRICT REPORTS - Nancy Joyce, Andy Golub, Benita Davis – District representatives reported on current and proposed district activities. Council meetings, 5 year plans, URSUS and standards were several topics discussed.
8. LSCA PROGRAMS AND EXPENDITURES - Richard Arnold, Del Pushard – Based on votes in both the House and Senate it appears that 1992 LSCA funding levels for Titles I and III will be similar to the 1991 levels. If there is any cut it will take place in Title II expenditures (from \$25 million to \$20 million) . A report listing 11 projects (10 under Title I, 1 under Title III) was reviewed. Title II projects are reviewed separately by the commission at another time during the year.
9. PERCENT FOR LIBRARIES ACT - Don Wismer – Don discussed his legislative proposal for the upcoming emergency session. One percent of the Department of Education's budget general fund revenue for each fiscal year would be put into a special fund for statewide library materials acquisition for public and school libraries and the Maine State Library. Although the Act would probably be opposed by the Department of Education and school superintendents, and despite the unfavorable political and economic climate, the Act was considered worthy of further study. It was recommended that the Act be reviewed by both MLA and MEMA and
On motion duly made and seconded it was
VOTED: to approve of the concept of the Percent for Libraries Act.
10. SCHOOL LIBRARY SURVEY – Jeanne Pernice – The School Library Survey was presented to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education. Both the Board and the Commissioner were extremely interested in the survey results. Of special interest was the relationship between good school library service and student achievement.
11. There being no further business to come before the commission it was
VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned 3:50 pm.


Benjamin F. Keating

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VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned at 3:35 PM

Benjamin F. Keating

MAINE LIBRARY COMMISSION

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